Steam Boat Amaranth Aug. 9th 1844

Bro. Ingrs. & Thed. Stem.

Dear Brethren.

Your kind letter of ... was received in due time, and would have been answered sooner, but I was then vacationing with you, and I had much to attend to about the building we are erecting for a M.E. Boarding School, and afterwards I was sick. I thought I had your letter with me, (and it is perhaps some place in one of my trunks,) but as I have it not before me at present, it will account for any inquiries being unanswered should this be the case.

I have started on my journey home, having sent my family last Spring, Mrs. H's health is poor, and has been for several years; but my expectations of her enjoying better health in the east are not very flattering. It will depend much on the state of her health, whether we return in the Spring, or remain in the east. I feel anxious to labour for the welfare of the poor Indians, though I have, as yet, seen but little evidence of fruit. Still there is encouragement, some I think, from the Indians themselves, but much from the promises of God, which cannot fail.

There has been less drunkenness among them this summer than usual, and I think more industry; and I have often thought, less disposition to find fault with the truths of the Gospel. I have sometimes had them to listen with a good deal of attention to the story of the cross, and I humbly hope some of them may yet be brought to a saving knowledge of the truth. Should I hear of it, I think it would rejoice me as much as if God had made me the instrument of bringing them to himself. Dear Brethren I hope you often pray for them, and for those who are trying to point them to the Saviour.

The Rev S.M. Lowe & Wife joined our mission this spring, and, as you are aware, it is the intention of our Board to establish a mission among the Otoes. Nothing has yet been done towards it, as they were on their Summer hunt when they came, and at the latest accounts, only a part had returned. Those who have returned, had made a fine hunt, but some difficulty arose between them and a party of Pawnees and Republicans, with whom they had been trading, upon which a fight ensued. The Otoes loosed about 40 of their number, and most of their property. I hope it may not interfere with the establishment of a mission among them but such scenes, render their minds averse to all that is good. It is hard for one, who

has not witnessed its effects, to realize it now. You make some inquiries about the Languages. The language of the Ioways has been reduced to a system, and some printing done in it. There is something peculiar about its construction, and very interesting. My knowledge of the Hebrew is quite limited, but as far as I can judge, the Iowey is much like it in construction, and their forms of speech show them to have been once an eastern people. The nominative and objective cases are both expressed by a change in the verb (by the introduction of pigments of pronouns) and this is mostly done with respect to the possessive case. The language is rather difficult to acquire, but I think is quite expressive, as far as they have ideas. But their ideas are of course few, and some words have to be introduced, and others used in a sense to which they were not accustomed, and which must be learned with the truths themselves. This you are aware was the case even with the Latin language with all its copiousness. To reduce an unwritten, to a written language, requires a labour and care that cannot well be imagined by those who have not made the trial; and to learn correctly such a language, is accompanied with difficulties unthought of by those who have all their lives been accustomed to books; Yet, with God all things are possible; and He who first gave to men different languages, can make him understood, in

thou' languages the great truths of the Gospel. I have sometimes thought that some of the books are beautifully expressed in Norway, at other times it requires much thought and care to express others; so that they may be properly understood.

Rec'd Sept. 1845

Mr. Hamilton is not at present on Missionary ground

Rev. Augs. Hodge, Seminary

Princeton

N.J.

We are getting along with our building for the M. E. B. School pretty well. We expect to have the walls up by the first of Sept. and much of the other work is already finished. Should I visit N.Y. this winter, of which I have some notion, it would afford me much satisfaction to meet with the Brethren of the Sem. and answer any enquiries that might be made. My home during the winter will be at My mother near Jersey Shore, Ly county. Pa. I shall be pleased to hear from you, though not an intimate friend. Let Brethren, the Lord be with you, is the prayer of yours in the